Aggression, Part I:
Harm without malice

The Paradox of the 20th Century
- Astonishing scientific & technical progress
- Advances in human rights:
  - end to slavery
  - women’s equality
  - end to child labor
  - peace in much of the world
  - spread of democracy

Our Bloody Century:
- World War I (1914-1918): 37,000,000 soldiers killed
- Terror-famine, Soviet Ukraine (1930s): 4,000,000 killed
- Holocaust (1938-1945): 6,000,000 Jews killed
- Hiroshima (1945): 100,000 (later 200,000) killed
- Cambodia (1975-1978): 2,000,000 killed
- Rwanda (1994): 500,000 Tutsis killed
- Bosnia (1992-1995): 200,000 Bosnians killed
Why do people commit mass murder?

- Freud: death instinct (“thanatos”)
- Common sense: good people vs. evil people

Adolf Eichmann:

- organized Hitler’s “Final Solution”
- escaped to Argentina
- kidnapped by Israeli agents, 1960; brought back to Jerusalem for trial

• Daniel Goldhagen (1996): Hitler’s Willing Executioners: Ordinary Germans and the Holocaust
Stanley Milgram: Obedience to Authority

- Inspired by Arendt’s book
- Universal surprise at the results.
- Compliance in the Milgram experiment: worldwide, approximately 65% (50%-80%).

Factors Affecting Obedience:

- Nonfactors: sadism, gender, personality.
  - “The Fundamental Attribution Error”
- Minor factors: prestige of institution, appearance of experimenter & victim.
- Major factors: proximity and authority of experimenter, proximity of victim, solitude of subject.
Other issues:

- Relevance to holocaust and other atrocities:
  - People also kill *without* being ordered to do so
- Ethical issues in Milgram experiment
  - Deception
  - Stress
- Committees for the protection of human subjects